

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

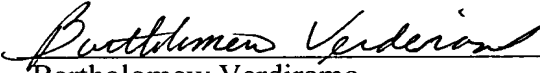
Claims 1-18 have been amended to replace the phrase "characterized in that" with "wherein," to provide proper antecedent basis for terms recited therein and thereby conform to U.S. practice. Claims 4, 5, 8, 10 and 12 been amended to depend solely on Claim 1; Claims 7 and 9 have been amended to depend solely on Claim 5; and Claims 16 and 17 have been amended to depend solely on Claim 13 thereby eliminating any multiple dependencies and more clearly defining the applicants' invention. Claim 1 has been amended to conform to U.S. practice regarding proper method claim format. Applicants respectfully submit that no new matter is introduced by these amendments, and requests entry thereof prior to examination on the merits.

AUTHORIZATION

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required for consideration of this Amendment to Deposit Account No. 13-4500, Order No. 6009-4743. A DUPLICATE OF THIS DOCUMENT IS ATTACHED.

Respectfully submitted,
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